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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha

(General; 2000)

Part I. Introduction

Established in 1907, the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, or BAPS) has been providing spiritual, social and community-based welfare services spanning from disaster relief to value-based living programs, through a vast support network of 55,000 registered volunteers, who dedicate millions of volunteer hours every year. Although a spiritual organization, our credos of selflessness and service have inspired a host of activities that serve to promote the general well-being and rights of the individual, family and community. Our diverse goals are best exemplified through the variety of fields in which we are active; serving individuals on a global scale, we categorize our efforts under five main subheadings: children and youth development, family unity, cultural heritage, humanitarian services, and spiritual and social harmony. This report will present how some of BAPS' global activities over the past four years were directly related to the United Nations Economic and Social Council either through participation in United Nations events or by supporting the Millennium Development Goals.

Part II. Participation in Meetings, Conferences and Campaigns of the United Nations, Economic and Social Council, or Affiliated Bodies

1. Participation in Meetings of the United Nations, Economic and Social Council, or Affiliated Bodies: (a) 58th Annual Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO Conference, United Nations, New York, 7-9 September 2005; (b) 59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, United Nations, New York, 6-8 September 2006; (c) 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, United Nations, New York, 5-6 September 2007; (d) 44th Session of the Commission for Social Development, United Nations, New York, 8-17 February 2006; (e) 51st Session of Commission of the Status of Women, United Nations, New York, 26 February - 7 March 2007; (f) Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on Civilizations and the Challenge for Peace, United Nations, New York, 10-11 May 2007; (g) High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Cooperation, United Nations, New York, 4 October 2007.

Specific Contributions to United Nations Events: Programs in Support of International Women's Day on 8 March. BAPS held programs throughout the month of March to commemorate International Women's Day by focusing on activities to improve the welfare and rights of women.

Cooperation with United Nations Bodies and Specialized Agencies: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) & Blue Peter Shoebiz Appeal. BAPS collected 5,000 pairs of shoes from which to raise funds for UNICEF efforts to fight the ravages of HIV/AIDS, specifically through an orphanage in Malawi.

Part III. Actions in Support of the Millennium Development Goals during the reporting period:

1. **Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger**: South Asian Tsunami: (a) as part of a rehabilitation effort after the South Asian Tsunami, BAPS constructed 245 fully furnished houses. In order to stimulate the local economies of these tsunami-hit areas, BAPS mobilized local townspeople in the rehabilitation efforts; (b) In July of 2005; BAPS donated 250 milch cows to 250 tsunami-affected families belonging to the villages of Sethupathiyoor, Vattumadai, Koittunar Vialai and Saral Vialai in the Kanyakumari district. In addition, 100 rope-making machines with raw materials, 5 slipper-making units and rubber sheets for 100 families were also donated. In all, the event provided means of livelihood for 450 families;

2. **Floods in Gujarat, India**: (a) BAPS provided hot meals to over 325,000 flood-affected people and distributed over 185,000 food packets. In total, BAPS provided flood relief aid to 95 villages in 16 regions; (b) BAPS provided Gujarat flood relief at over 20 centers across Gujarat, India. These efforts included the preparation and distribution of 324,155 food packets, 14,650 people were provided meals, 2 tankers for drinking water, 276,000 water pouches, 17,000 milk pouches and 5 tons of milk powder, and 6,000 family packs (cooking oil, flour grains, spices, etc.), totaling 280 tons of relief supplies; (c) In August of 2004, in South Gujarat, India, 2000 BAPS volunteers provided disaster relief services to thousands affected by torrential floods in the South Gujarat areas of Silvassa, Dadra-Nagar Haveli, Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Bharuch and Bodeli;

In April of 2005, BAPS volunteers in Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, visited the Mother Teresa Home, a few kilometers from Dar-es-Salaam, to distribute items of daily use to the residents there. These distribution cycles are held approximately once a month. In May of 2005, BAPS youths visited the Salvation Army hostel, a few kilometers from Dar-es-Salaam, to distribute various basic amenities, such as flour, milk powder, wafers, biscuits, etc. to the residents. In response to Hurricane Katrina, kitchens were established to distribute hot meals to the people in Kenner, Louisiana. Shelters were opened in Jackson, Mississippi and the surrounding areas to provide housing facilities for these victims. In March of 2006, to counteract the effects of the Kenyan famine, BAPS presented packets to the Kalonzo Musyoka Foundation. The 4,000 packets presented contained 2.5kg of corn floor, beans, salt and cooking fat.

Achieve Universal Primary Education: (a) The BAPS Swaminarayan Vidya Mandir (independent school) in Sarangpur, Gujarat was inaugurated in June 2002 but entered its new, permanent facility in 2004. Situated in a rural area, the new 1,200-student school provides an opportunity for children from all social strata to realize their potential in providing quality primary education at low to no-cost. In the recent Standard 10 (Board) Exams for the State of Gujarat, the school attained a 98% pass result leading to the Gujarat Secondary Education Board (GSEB) placing it among its 'A' grade category of schools; (b) In June 2006, in Raisan, Gujarat, India, BAPS opened a new school. The first phase will provide teaching for pupils from the nursery level up to Standard 4. This English-medium school will eventually provide education up to Standard 12; (c) In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, BAPS held special Education Seminars to assist children and teenagers with a range of educational issues, including study skills and career placement; (d) In North America, BAPS has launched an Education Initiative to assist new migrants to the United States and Canada in

assimilation to the existing educational framework with the goal of improving academic achievement and retention.

Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women: (a) In March of 2004, in Haflong, Assam, India, BAPS opened a new girls' dormitory for disadvantaged girls studying away from home; (b) To encourage women to realize their individual and communal potential, BAPS began a year-long campaign that culminated in a program on the 14 December 2007, entitled "Empowering Women" which was attended by over 100,000 women and televised live around the world; (c) To allow females to develop their talents, BAPS has instituted special girls-only programs run by teenage girls who serve as mentors for younger girls. Together they organize large-scale events and weekly educational sessions in which they refine their skills of communication, public-speaking, presenting, and team management.

Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Disease: (a) In May of 2004, in Edison, New Jersey, the United States of America, BAPS Charities and Medical Services hosted a Medico-Spiritual Conference. Many in attendance vowed to continue their voluntary support of numerous nationwide Health Fairs held across North America to help the uninsured and underinsured receive free health screenings. A key component of this program is preventative education and treatment for long-term illnesses such as diabetes and coronary heart disease; (b) On 31 May 2004, in Mumbai, India, to commemorate 'World De-addiction Day', BAPS hosted a special de-addiction exhibition targeting those populations where intravenous drug use is a contributor to the spread of HIV/AIDS; (c) On 30 January 2005, in Surat, Gujarat, India, BAPS Health Care Services opened an ultramodern hospital, BAPS Pramukh Swami Hospital. The hospital provides world-class facilities and doctors for all and offers free or subsidized treatment for the poor; (d) Every year, as a part of national health awareness drives, BAPS, United Kingdom hosted a series of ethnic-specific seminars and screenings. Exhibitors included Breast Cancer Care, United Kingdom, Diabetes, United Kingdom, The British Heart Foundation, Surya Foundation (Health & Fitness – Yoga) and professionals from the fields of Optometry, Podiatry, Pharmacy, and Dieticians; (e) In September 2007, BAPS volunteers Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania participated in a drive to assist victims of Hansen's disease, providing affected families with food and basic supplies; (f) In November 2007, BAPS held an Eye-Treatment Camp in Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, providing free eye care to over 300 patients; (g) In May 2007, youth members of BAPS conducted a De-Addiction Campaign, visiting homes and various public places to educate people about the harms of various forms on addictions such as tobacco, alcohol, drugs, etc. Special presentations and dramas were conducted to convey the message of better and healthy living to the widest possible audience.

Part IV. Actions in Support of Community Integration

As part of the BAPS Community Care Program, young members from the BAPS Children's Forum regularly visit the elderly in care homes, nursing homes and hospital wards around the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Inspired by the Hindu ethos of caring for and respecting senior community members, BAPS has worked hard to appreciate the valuable role of the elderly and transmit this awareness to others, especially the young. In BAPS has participated in various inter-faith meetings and events in order to improve understanding amongst diverse

communities in an attempt to ensure peace and harmony. **Events included:** (a) February of 2005: BAPS participated in the National Interfaith Forum hosted by the Auckland Interfaith Council in New Zealand; (b) January of 2007: BAPS participated in the Inter-Faith Action for Peace in Africa; (c) November of 2007, BAPS participated in the Religions for Peace roundtable for faith-based organizations in London.

2. Cooperazione e Sviluppo

(Special; 2004)

PART I. Introduction

i) Aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action

Cooperazione e Sviluppo –CESVI-, which was established in 1985, is a secular, independent association, working for global solidarity. In the values which guide CESVI, the moral principle of human solidarity and the ideal of social justice are transformed into humanitarian aid and development. CESVI assistance to people in need around the world can be divided into three main categories: immediate help to ensure survival and to overcome emergencies; the rehabilitation and reconstruction of systems destroyed by war or natural calamities; cooperation programs and projects for the development of underprivileged social groups and poor communities. From 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2007, CESVI initiatives in poor countries cost a total of 51,675,645 Euro. 7,714,330 people were their primary recipients; 2,934 people were employed as local staff, backed by 255 expatriates. The headquarters staff consisted of almost 40 persons, supported by hundreds of volunteers in Italy.

ii) Change that may have had a significant impact on the organization vision and /or functions.

Since 2003-2004 CESVI identified some key sectors that characterize its commitment to reducing world poverty: health (in particular of mothers and children, and the fight against the great pandemic diseases like Aids and malaria); to help children and young people; to assure water and sanitation; environment and sustainable development; humanitarian action in response to emergencies caused by human and natural calamities. In 2006 and 2007 two new sectors have been shaped: social business and education in Europe. As member of *Alliance 2015,* a European based network with 5 other major NGOs (like Welthungerhilfe Germany; Concern Worldwide Ireland – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; Hivos The Netherlands; Ibis Denmark; People in Need, Czech Republic), CESVI improved the quality of its action in the seven above mentioned sectors. Some policies or guidelines for the action, especially towards MDGs have been drafted in 2006 and 2007 for increasing efficiency and effectiveness. All the policies are based on the United Nations International recognized conventions (like the Convention on Rights of the Child) or United Nations Declarations.

In 2007, CESVI became a "Participatory Foundation" with the aim of opening to the community of its supporters, private donors and volunteers. The new Statute states that new categories have to be added to the founder members within the Board of Directors and the Board of Guarantors. This means new

opportunities for continuous listening and constant dialogue, in order to enhance interaction among members of the operational structure and the greater community of supporter members, scattered across Italy as well as abroad. The Foundation status is a well-known solution for large Italian NGOs. CESVI kept all the recognitions received internationally and locally, namely that of "Non governmental organisation" approved by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

- United Nations General Assembly – Special Session on Children – *"Common strategies and Concrete Proposals Against Child Labour and for Promoting Universal Education"* - 11 December 2007 CESVI supported the participation of the Campaign "Tornare Bambini" headed by the Italian NGO Mani Tese and the Delegation of the International Campaign "Stop Child labour- School is the best place to work" represented by the main partner M Venkatarangaiya Foundation, India.

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – "Unite for children - Unite against AIDS", Global campaign. CESVI is one of the main Italian promoters of the Campaign. Last April 2007 the Campaign adorned the Coliseum in Rome with its logo.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and /or specialized agencies in the field and /or at Headquarters.

Financial assistance received from United Nations or other United Nations agencies for the implementation of projects. United Nations funding to CESVI was: 4 percent in 2004, 7 percent each year in 2005, 2006 and 2007 of CESVI total funding. Below is a list of supported projects:

- United Nations Office for Projects Services (UNOPS), *Community based malaria prevention and control programme in 5 townships*, 2007-2008, the Union of Myanmar

- UNICEF, *Distribution to 16 primary schools of tools and material for the construction of 112 block of latrines (two holes each) and the rehabilitation of 55 classrooms. Distribution of Unicef school material to the same schools*, 2004, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- World Food Program (WFP), *Distribution of foods-item in Beni and Luna*, 2004, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- UNICEF, *Non food items distribution to vulnerable population in Ituri*, 2004-2005, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- UNICEF, *Needs evaluation and rapid response in emergency situation for vulnerable population*, 2004-2005, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- WFP, *Food items au deplacés*, 2005, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- United Nations Development Program (PNUD), *Réouverture et réhabilitation de l'axe routier Mambasa–Nduye*, 2005-5006, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- PNUD, *Réhabilitation des Marchés Généraux des villes de Tchomia et Kasenyi*, 2005-2006, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), *Assistance to the returnees*, 2005 Democratic Republic of the Congo

- UNICEF, *Support to the returnees and IDPs population along the Albert Lake area: Rehabilitation of community infrastructures in the villages of Nyamamba, Mbogi, Kafe, Joo, Gbii and Roo*, 2005-2006, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), *Rehabilitation de batiments administratifs de Mambasa et Djugu et d'Irumu*, 2005-2006 Democratic Republic of the Congo

- UNICEF, *Distribution de kits scolaires dans la localité de ARU*, 2005-2006, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- PNUD, *Soutiens aux populations retournées de Djugu: Pitso, Dirokpa, Kakwa et Lidyo*, 2006-2007, Democratic Republic of the Congo

- PNUD, *Soutiens aux populations retournées situées le long du Lac Albert*, 2007, Republic of the Congo

- UNICEF, *Shieb and Wadi Laba Sanitation and Hygiene Project*, 2004-2005, Eritrea

- United Nations Development Program (UNDP), *Sudan Post Conflict Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme - Warrab State*, 2006-2009, Sudan

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), *Food security for IDPs in Apac district*, 2005, Uganda

- UNICEF, *Improvement of the Health and Sanitation Conditions of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Apac District*, 2005, Uganda

- UNICEF, *Improvement of the Water and Sanitation Conditions for Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities in Apac District*, 2006-2007, Uganda

- UNDP, *Prévention et lutte contre le paludisme grave dans la ZS de Tchomia en Ituri*, 2007-2008, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century.

a. According to CESVI most recent Annual Reports, these were the financial commitments of CESVI for the MDGs (mainly used in projects implementation in Africa, Asia and Latin America): Poverty reduction raised from 14% (2004) to 53% (2007) of total CESVI expenditures; primary education from 4% to 9%; Gender from 0% to 1%; Child Mortality Reduction from 3% to 6%; Maternal Health from 1% to 3%; response to HIV Malaria and other diseases remained at 11%; Environmental protection raised from 7% to 8%. In 2007, 91 % of the costs of CESVI's projects were committed to MDGs.

b. About the activities in Support of Global Principle: World AIDS Day was observed each 1 December by the organization with several initiatives in Italian squares. CESVI did not participate *directly* in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because it focused its activities on the development and implementation of projects in the field.

3. Fundación Cultural Baur

(Special; 2004)

I. Aims and Purposes.

Fundación Cultural Baur (FCB) is conscious that Education is the most powerful strength of social transformation. That is why the FCB represents the space in which new generations, committed with reason and justice, serves humankind and works in favor of Human Rights. FCB encourages children and youngsters to be responsible of their society and the conservation of their planet through educational activities.

II. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

The representative of Fundación Cultural Baur participated as speaker at the 59th Annual NGO/DPI Conference- Science and Technology for Education at United Nations Headquarters on September 6-8, 2006; The project: Education, Commitment, and Action for the Forgotten Children was presented at the Annual Ministerial Review Innovation Fair in Geneva, 2-5 July 2007 during the 2007 Regular Session of the Economic and Social Council (2-27 July 2007). FCB in association with Global Education Motivators (GEM) participated at the Webcast Conference with the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, United States of America, "Awakening Global Responsibility: A Call to Sustainable Democracy" where 400 students from Mexico, the Dominican Republic, British Columbia, Prague and the United States interacted on 7 May 2004.

III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

United Nations Events: The representative was Co-sponsor of the United Nations Student Conference in observance of Human Rights Day (UNSCHR), hosted annually by the United Nations Department of Public Information, for the following years: 2-3 December 2004 "HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: From Awareness to Action" at United Nations Headquarters New York, presenting the Decalogue of the Rights of Mexican Children. 1-2 December 2005, "UNSCHR: Water as a Human Right" at United Nations Headquarters, New York. 29 November - 1 December 2006, "UNSCHR: Migration and Development: Challenges for Human Rights" at Headquarters New York. 5-7 December 2007 "UNSCHR: Recognizing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" at United Nations Headquarters, New York. FCB participated in videoconferences with United Nations and Global Education Motivators - GEM in relation to Human Rights: "Globalization and Democracy Series", 23 April and 7 May 2004. 2005: "HIV/AIDS and its effect on human rights", 31 May. "Prescriptions for the New Millennium", 20 May. Evaluation of proposals on AIDS made at the UNSCHR 2004. 2006 and 2007: "United Nations in Your World" Series; "War Affected Children"; "Millennium Development Goals" and "Water and Human Development". The representative attended: the First United Nations Teacher Conference on Human Rights at United Nations Headquarters on April 2006. In 2007 FCB participated at the following Live Video Chats: 24 October "The Situation of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom of Indigenous Peoples" with the United Nations Special Rapporteur. 15 November "Supporting Human Rights and Social Justice for Indigenous People" with the North American Representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues. 28 November "UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child" with the UNICEF's spokesperson on Child Protection Issues.

NGO-Sponsored Events: The representative organized in conjunction with Global Educator Motivators the First Teachers Congress on Human Rights in Mexico with the participation of 20 schools from Mexico and 20 from the United States (i) 5-11 July 2006 Mexico; (ii) 2-5 April 2004 FCB organized the Baur International Model United Nations (BIMUN), Mexico City; (iii) 26-27 November 2004 Baur Interschool Model United Nations (BIMUN Jr), Mexico City; (iv) 18-21 March 25 BIMUN; (v) 9-10 December 2005 BIMUN Jr., Mexico City; (vi) 8-10 December 2006 BIMUN Jr., Mexico City; (vii) 9-11 February 2007 BIMUN Bajío in Querétaro, Mexico. Each event gathered approximately 500 students from different universities and schools to discuss topics from the agenda of the United Nations.

IV. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals. FCB educated children and youngsters so that they can find their intellectual, scientific, technological, and cultural growth with a social conscience that will allow them to use their knowledge for serving humankind.

Goal 1 - Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger: Monthly food collection from 2004-2007: Fundación para la Asistencia Educativa (FAE): children of the dumpsters in Xochiaca = 500 children and 500 families. Fundación Familiar Infantil for the children of imprisoned women = 250 children. Casa Benito Cottolengo for children with special capacities = 40 children. Hogar Casa San Pablo, Querétaro for orphan children = 120 children. Total 1410 children x month x 12 months = 16,950 x 4

years = 67,280 nourished people. Collecting and storing water, diapers, blankets and canned food for the victims of Tabasco and Chiapas hurricane of 2007.

Goal 2 - Achieve Universal Primary Education: 2004-2007: In order to achieve an integral education, children from the following elementary schools were provided with time for entertainment directed to develop the ability to learn: Annual gathering from 2004 to 2007 for children with different capacities of the Bordo de Xochiaca School in Chimalhuacan = 450 children. Annual gathering for children of imprisoned women = 150 children. Monthly gathering with Casa Hogar SayutZet-Zela (for girls with special capacities) = 15 girls. Total of children = 780 x 4 years = 3,120. Promotion of international videoconferences in 2006: Thanksgiving in the United States, with Saint Lawrence Regional School, New York, 60 Mexican children and 50 children from New York. During 2007, Students and Teachers Cultural Exchange with White Plains Middle School, New York, 40 children from México and 60 children from New York. On May 2006 and 2007, FCB promoted the "Ambassadors of Culture" Program with Collegiate School, Richmond, Virginia "Mexico and its Cultural Diversity" with 12 Mexican children and 600 children from Washington. Cultural Exchange with Manhattan Country School in New York, 25 Mexican children and 200 children from New York. Total 952 children from Mexico and the United States.

Goal 3 - Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women: Annual Handicraft Fair for different ethnic groups from 2004 to 2007 including 50 Triquis in Oaxaca, 30 Mazahuas in Mexico State and 40 Otomíes from la Sierra Gorda, Querétaro. Total of Mexican women = 480.

Goal 4 - Reduce Child Mortality: Supporting the "Salva a un Niño con SIDA" Foundation with an economical subsidiary of US$2000.00 per event for 80 affected families during 2006 and 2007, achieving the birth of healthy children

Goal 5 - Improve Maternal Health: FCB contributed 405 pairs of shoes which were exchanged for medical supplies for women with HIV through the "Salva a un Niño con SIDA" Foundation.

Goal 6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases: From 2004 to 2007 FCB organized four annual Art Fairs to gather funds for medical supplies for children with AIDS from "Salva a un Niño con SIDA" Foundation. Total: 45 children.

Goal 7 - Ensure the Environmental Sustainability: The FCB organizes international conferences together with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM): In 2004 International Conference "Youngsters Before Water Crisis" connected with five Iberoamerican Countries: Spain, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Ecuador. In 2007 "Weather Change" together with China, Australia, National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) and UNAM through the World Organization of Science Museums. International Videoconferences: On October "Creation of Spaceships" in NASA. On December Youngsters Before the Water Crisis. On February 2005 Hyper X Project NASA. In 2006, The International Year of Physics: "Physics and Time Travel", "A different Universe", "The Coldest Objects in Universe", and "Physics and Nanotechnology". During 2007, International Year of the Sun "Solar Physics", "The Invisible Sun", "The Greenhouse Effect in Mexico".

Goal 8 - Develop a Global Partnership for Development: FCB, associated with Global Education Motivators Philadelphia for ten years, has been awarded the prize "Education on Human Rights". FCB participated with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the program "Drums for Peace" in Belgium on 21 March 2008 (World Journey of Children Poetry). Participation with the Federación de Estudiantes Universitarios de Cuba since 2004. Participation in the Congress of Educational Technology organized by the Organización de Recursos Tecnológicos (ORT) on 18-22 February 2007. On 13-14 September 2007, the President of FCB participated as a speaker at the "3rd Iberoamerican Summit: Integral Education, The Key to Change", in Panama, where she received the 2007 Iberoamerican award in Honor of Educational Excellence, the Honorory Degree of "Doctor Honoris Causa", and the Honorary Title of "Magister in Educational Management" by the "Consejo Iberoamericano en Honor a la Calidad Educativa" in Panama City.

4. Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group

(Special; 2000)

PART I - Introduction

1. Aims & Purposes and Course of Actions of Organization

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG)'s aims and objectives emphasize strengthening and encouraging initiatives of marginalized sections and address environmental concerns. Since its inception, GEAG has been striving for the protection of Mother Nature and sustainable development through a people centered approach, focusing on their participation and inclusion, awareness and empowerment and their democratic rights. Apart from these, environment protection, gender equity, social and economic beliefs are the cross cutting issues of GEAG's interventions.

Activities: The year 2004 was a landmark year in the history of GEAG as it carried out an organizational development exercise, that gave a new dimension in terms of refinement of its expertise, experience and role (based on past working experience of 29 years) to the development strategies as a Support Organization. In turn its organizational vision and mission were modified and embodied into organizational constitution. GEAG has long used its field and research based experience to enrich the development of ecologically balanced viable farming systems and institutions to promote the livelihood of targeted economically challenged people. Its established models and resource centres have particularly been recognized by governments, international and national organizations, agricultural institutions, and the media. To-date, GEAG is well-known a as Support Organization in Northern India on sustainable agriculture, livelihood promotion models, climatic change and adaptation issues.

To make lasting changes in the lives of great numbers of economically challenged peoples, GEAG worked with several regional, national and international organizations to replicate people-led models and advocacy-networking activities in several flood and drought prone districts of different agro-climatic zones of Uttar Pradesh. Its sustainable agriculture literacy programme was implemented in 55 Districts of Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently to ensure the framing of appropriate policies and schemes

at government level, it formed two groups: first at the state level a union of landless, small, marginal and women farmers (one lakh members) and then Sustainable Agriculture Network of 251 Non-Governmental Organizations- which were milestones towards its targets. These two groups have created recognizable atmosphere of sustainable agriculture and highlighted the contribution and role of small, marginal and women farmers in agriculture. In their support, the advocacy research documents include "Status of Women Farmers in Uttar Pradesh"; "Dangerous Machine Act" and "Analysis Paper on State Agriculture Policy 2004".

Another issue facing women farmers is that they are counted as non-contributory. Consequently they are deprived of basic rights and they even lack the basic identity of farmer despite their significant contribution towards food security, economic development and growth of country. For their entitlements and rights, an Oxfam India supported campaign is being implemented in 70 districts of Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with 70 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). In order to salute women farmers of India, a postage stamp on women farmer was presented to The President, Prime Minster and several prominent public representatives inviting the support of great numbers of NGO. Encouraging responses were received from all these eminent personalities and efforts are on for issuance of the postage stamp. Annual organization of state level Farmer's Parliament is another milestone for organizing farmers and collaborative efforts. In Uttar Pradesh, it also acts as Co-ordinating Agency in Oxfam International supported Make Trade fare Campaign. Apart from raising their issues at national level, the representatives of small, marginal and women farmers had also raised their issues and concerns at international platforms. Their voices were raised in India Social Forum 2006 in collaboration with Consult for Women's Land Rights, New Delhi (9-13 November 2006 at New Delhi) & World Social Forum 2007 (20-25 January 2007) in collaboration with Ekta Parishad, Bhopal.

Also experiencing and realizing regular demands of community/farmers of flood and drought affected areas followed by global thrust on initiatives on climatic change and adaptation issues, GEAG undertook collaborative efforts with several national and international organizations and incorporated these issues in its programmatic and research initiatives. Now GEAG is recognized as a resource organization on climatic change and adaptation issues in South Asia. In climatic variability situations, sustainable agriculture is demonstrated and projected as major adaptive approach for reducing vulnerability of mainly small and marginal farmers. The collaborative partners on climatic change issues are Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom; International Development and Research Centre, Canada; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States of America; Nepal Water Conservation Fund (NWCF), Nepal; Institute SET (ISET), India and Nepal; Asia Pacific Network on Climate Change (APN), Japan; Global Environmental Change and Food System (GECAFS), United Kingdom; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and / or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

- Implementation of Prevention of Trafficking and HIV/AIDS project in five districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with UNDP in 2006-07.

- With United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as collaborative partners in Inter Agency Group formed for disaster reduction in year 2007.

ii) Initiatives undertaken by the organizations in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century.

I) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Poverty eradication through adoption of eco-friendly sustainable agriculture/low input farming and livelihood activities: 1,55,450

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

- In villages of five districts, awareness on primary education (indirect intervention): 50

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

- Capacity-building of women for their social, economical, and political development (through direct intervention): 8442

- Population covered by organized Women Farmer's Interest and Rights March: 450,000.

Goal 4 & 5: Reduce child mortality & Improve Maternal Health

- Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) were trained on safe delivery and child care practices (along-with training and orientation of all health workers and block and district level officials of district Maharajganj) : 936

- Women made aware on safe delivery and child care practices: 700

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Self Help Group members were made aware of HIV/AIDS: 3844

- From time to time campaigns were organized on HIV/AIDS, malaria, Japanese Encephalitis etc.

- In years 2005-2006, amount spent on treatment, health camps, awareness, on Japanese Encephalitis: Rs.85,700

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

- GEAG is committed to promote eco-friendly activities through promoting sustainable agriculture and low input farming activities,

- From time to time, campaigns were organized against problems of safe drinking water and other water borne diseases.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

- GEAG has developed Global partnership with NOAA, ISET, NWCF, GECAFS, DFID, UNDP and International Institute for Environment and Development for working and sharing its experience on adaptation issues in climatic change and natural disasters situations (through research and implementation for prompting community level adaptation and policy influencing).

ii) Activities in Support of Global Principles

- Every year on the day of World Environment Day (5 June), a workshop followed by plantation campaign in several areas was organized.

- Farmers organized Collective Fasts on 16 October 2006 (World Food Day) in front of the Chauri Chaura Tehsil office and at collector's officer at Gorakhpur and submitted demand note to the Governor, Chief Minister, National Human Rights Commission and Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

- On 15 October 2006 (International Rural Women Day), a workshop was organized at Lucknow involving 50 NGO working for their rights and entitlements of women farmers.

5. Hong Kong Federation of Women

(Special; 2000)

Part I. Introduction

The Hong Kong Federation of Women Limited (HKFW) was established in June, 1993. HKFW is a non-profit making and non-political organization. The main objectives of HFKW are to unite women from all walks of life, to study and make representation on community affairs, to improve and protect the lawful rights and status of women and to liaise with similar organizations around the world. Currently HKFW has over 1,000 individual members and 57 corporate members from various local districts with a total membership reaching 100,000. HKFW was granted a lease of land by the

Government and subsequently built the "HKFW Nina Kung Service Centre" in the late 1999 to serve women and the general public. Due to the rapid development and expansion of the diversified services, HKFW is planning to build the "HKFW T.S. Kwok Service Centre" on the adjacent land with the funds donated by the "T.S. Kwok Foundation", a charity foundation in Hong Kong, China. HKFW has maintained an excellent relationship with the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) in China since it was established in 1993 and obtained consultative status with Economic and Social Council in 2000.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

HKFW focuses its efforts on women's empowerment by providing training classes, health development programs and personal growth program, and striving to protect women's legal rights through legal counseling and submitting views to the Government. Besides, HKFW encourages women to participate in national and international conferences to network and exchange experiences. From 2004-2007, numerous meaningful events and prominent projects that have direct contribution to the work of the United Nations were organized and co-organized with various parties, as described below.

a. **2004 Women's Conference**, 13-14 February 2004, Hong Kong, China. In 2004 a Women's Conference was organized by the HKFW as the first conference to enable women from China, Macao, China, and Hong Kong, China, to gather together and exchange views on women's issues. Its aim was to enhance women's capacity building and empowerment. It had successfully drawn wide participation of speakers and guests from various sectors representing various women's organizations, academia, the professionals and the media. The theme of the Conference was 10 years follow-up on the Beijing Declaration.

The conference facilitated the exchange of valuable opinions on various subjects of concern to women, including combating and eradication of violence, health, education, environment, social participation, the portrayal of women by the media, and economic participation of women. Through the discussion, several long-term goals were set. Individually, women should build their capacity to cope with the development of a knowledge-based society. On the organizational level, women should examine deeply their role in providing solutions for women-related problems and social development. As a result, the unification of women of different social classes could be achieved and the strengthening of woman organizations could be achieved.

b. **"Beijing +10" Memorial Activities in Hong Kong SAR of China**, April- July 2005, Hong Kong, China: In 2005, ten years after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the HKFW united 77 women's organizations and formed a joint organizing panel which coordinated a series of activities(listed below) to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference:- (i) "Hong Kong Women in the 21st Century – Photo competition & Exhibition", April-May 2005; (ii) "Survey on Public Awareness of Women Issues", 19-23 May 2005; (iii) "Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Hong Kong", 18 July 2005; (iv) "Women's Seminar & Cocktail Reception", 18 July 2005.

The "Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Hong Kong" had been submitted to the All-China Women Federation (18 July 2005, Beijing, China), which summarized the views of women NGOs and women from all walks of life on the ten critical areas of concerns of the Beijing Platform for Action, including "Women and Poverty"; "Education and Training of Women"; "Women and Health"; "Violence Against Women"; "Women and the Economy"; "Women in Power and Decision Making"; "Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women"; "Human Rights of Women"; "Women and the Media"; and "Women and the Environment". The Report, with an outline of the gaps and obstacles in the implementation of "Beijing Platform for Action" in Hong Kong, China, and recommendations, formed a basis for the formulation of strategies to advance the status of women and eliminate prejudices against women.

c. **Hong Kong-Saudi (HK-Saudi) Professional Women Meeting**, 6-10 March 2006, Hong Kong, China: Upon the invitation by the Royal Consulate General of Saudi Arabia in Hong Kong, China, the HKFW hosted the first "HK-Saudi Professional Women Meeting" and received the Saudi Arabia Women delegation, comprising a total of 25 professional women, led by the H.R.H. Princess Loulwah, daughter of King Faisal Al-Saud. The 3-day meeting was a golden opportunity to enhance the mutual understanding between women in Hong Kong, China, and Saudi Arabia. Subsequent to the Meeting, a delegation of HKFW consisted of entrepreneurs, professionals, scholars and bankers were invited to visit the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (16-20 March 2007, Jeddah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) for cultural exchange. The visit had strengthened the link between women in Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong, China, and extensively contributed to the exploration of new co-operation opportunities.

d. **6th East Asian Women Forum (EAWF)**, 17 – 20 July 2006, Beijing, China: The HKFW's representative attended the 6th East Asian Women Forum and announced a Mission Statement in response to the main theme of the Forum: (i) Eliminating the political discrimination against women and seizing every opportunity of social, political and economic decision making; (ii) Promoting education for women and eliminating prejudiced views and discrimination against women, consequently achieving a harmonious society; (iii) Strengthening the central mechanism in raising women's status by carrying out gender mainstreaming and public education on women issues; (iv) Striving for equal treatment under domestic law and providing mediation service to allow family conflicts to be resolved in a cordial environment; (v) Protecting gender equality in the labor market, encouraging 'family friendly' policy for balancing work and family, and recognizing the economic value of 'no paid' job provided by housewives.

e. **36th Session of Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on the Implementation of CEDAW**, 7-26 August 2006, United Nations headquarters, New York: The HKFW's representatives presented both oral and written statements, which expressed HKFW's views on further advancing women's status and prompted the equal development of women and men. Subjects addressed in the written statement included "Elimination of discrimination against women's participation in power and decision making"; "Education rights and gender prejudices and stereotyping"; "Institutional mechanism"; "Equality in Family Law"; "Elimination of violence against women"; and "Equality in employment and labour rights".

f. **51st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW),** 26 February - 9 March 2007, United Nations headquarters, New York: The HKFW's representatives shared experiences and practices in relation to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women (CEDAW) and girl child at the plenary meeting of the session. Besides, they attended a number of parallel events held with women groups and community leaders in New York, such as: (i) A breakfast reception hosted by Mayor Bloomberg of New York at the Macy's Department Store for 300 women leaders to celebrate "Women's History Month" on 1 March 2007; (ii) A networking lunch on 28 February 2007 hosted by the Chairperson of the Hong Kong Women's Commission with New York women leaders to exchange ideas on the work on promoting women's well-being. The guests who attended the luncheon included the Deputy Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, and Managing Director of the Division for International Business, New York City Commission for the United States, Consular Corps & Protocol; (iii) Two tea gatherings with the representatives of the Sheng Kung Hui and Caritas Group from Hong Kong, China were held. They expressed interest in the HKFW's work and the HKFW would explore further co-operation with them in the future; (iv) A reception hosted by the Consulate General of Austria on 8 March 2007 to celebrate International Women's Day.

g. **Global Summit of Women:** With the aim of encouraging women to network and exchange experiences with other countries, the HKFW participated in the Global Summit as International Partner and helped to disseminate information to the women's organizations in Hong Kong, China, for the following conferences: (i) Global Summit of Women 2004, 27-29 May 2004, Seoul, Republic of Korea; (ii) Global Summit of Women 2005, 23-25 June, 2005, Mexico City, Mexico; (iii) Global Summit of Women 2006, 10-12 June 2006, Cairo, Egypt; (iv) Global Summit of Women 2007, 13-18 June 2007, Berlin, Germany.